

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A display system for use in a communications network, comprising:

a display device; and

plural display windows at the display device, the plural windows for simultaneously displaying multiple content, wherein a first display window is for displaying a broadcast television program and wherein a second display window is for displaying content from an instant messaging (IM) application, so that IM content in the form of a message may be displayed at the second window, such message concerning the television program displayed on the first window.

18. (New) The display system of claim 17, wherein the broadcast television program is provided over one of a plurality of selectable television channels, and wherein the display device is a television screen.

19. (New) The display system of claim 17, wherein the instant messaging content further comprises:

a personal ID associated with a user of the IM application.

20. (New) The display system of claim 19, wherein the user is remote from the display system.

21. (New) The display system of claim 20, wherein the instant messaging content further comprises a program ID for identifying a broadcast television program being viewed by the remote user.

22. (New) The display system of claim 21, wherein the instant messaging content further comprises a message sent from the remote user to a user at the display system.

23. (New) The display system of claim 19, wherein the instant managing content further comprises a message sent from the user viewing the television program at the display device.

24. (New) The display system of claim 17, wherein the communications network has multiple users each having a display device, wherein the communications network includes a server storing instant messaging content for display at the display device, and wherein the server may be used to aggregate instant messaging content from the multiple users, whereby video programming activity by multiple users can be tracked at the server.

25. (New) The display system of claim 17, wherein the television program is provided to the display system by a VDSL service

26. (New) The display system of claim 17, wherein the television program is provided to the display system by a satellite television service.

27. (New) The display system of claim 17, wherein the television program is provided to the display system by a cable television service.

28. (New) In a communications network having a plurality of users and a user interface device associated with each user, the user interface device comprising:

display means; and

means for simultaneously displaying multiple content to a viewer at the display means, including first window means for displaying television programming content at a first display window at said display means, and second window means for simultaneously displaying content from an instant messaging (IM) application at a second window at said display means, so that both a television program and IM messages concerning the television program may be displayed simultaneously at the display means.

29. (New) A method for displaying content to users in a communications network, comprising:

displaying content at a display device associated with each user; and

providing plural windows at the display device, with a first window displaying television programming and a second window for simultaneously displaying instant messaging messages concerning the television programming.